

## IN THE MARGINS

## LITCITY

3/16

**Reading. 7-8:30pm.** Brian McMahon and Rob Pomerhn. Starbucks Coffee, 3755 Union Road, Cheektowaga (681-6262).

3/18

**Workshop. 3-5pm.** "Heaven and Earth Horatio! Art, the Supernatural, and a Writing Career in Between." Hosted by Mason Winfield. Carnegie Art Center., 240 Goundry St., North Tonawanda (694-4400); free.

**The Working Writer Seminar. 12-4pm.** "You Can Get Published." Workshop with Just Buffalo Literary Center. CEPA Gallery, 617 Main St. (856-2717); \$50 (call 832-5400 to register).

3/19

**Open Readings. 7pm.** Hosted by Livio Farallo and featuring Liz Mariani, with 10 slots for open readers. Rust Belt Books, 202 Allen St. (885-9535)

**Open Readings. 2pm.** Featuring David Butler, N'Tare Ali Gault, Jude Porter and Ross Runfola, with a video by William Kothe. Additional slots available for open readers. The Screening Room, 331 Sheridan Dr., Northtown Plaza (837-0376).

3/21

**Literally Speaking. 12-1pm.** Lunchtime Book Discussion Group will focus on *The Birth of Venus*, by Sarah Dunant. Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, One Lafayette Square (858-8900).

**Venice: Mystery and Intrigue. 1-3pm.** Last session of a 5-week course on John Brendt's novel *The City of*

*Falling Angels*.; pre-registration required.

3/22

**Booksigning. 7pm.** Joseph P. Ritz, author of *I Never Looked For My Mother and Other Regrets of a Journalist*, will read from and autograph his book. Talking Leaves, 3158 Main St. (837-8554).

**Reading. 7pm.** R.M. Berry, part of the Write Thing Reading Series, Medaille College (Library at Huber Hall, 18 Agassiz Circle).

**Writing Workshop.** "Women's Lives & Legacies." A two-part program March 22 & 29, 6:30pm. YWCA of the Tonawandas, 49 Tremont St., North Tonawanda (692-5580); registration required.

3/23 &amp; 3/24

**Samuel R. Delany Conference. 8am-6pm.** Featuring numerous lectures and panels. Readings by Lance Olsen (Thu 8pm) and Delany (Fri 8pm) follow at Trinity Episcopal Church (371 Delaware). Poetry Collection, 420 Capen Hall, UB North Campus.

## RECURRING EVENTS

**EM Tea Coffee Cup Open Mic Poetry Series.** 7-9:30pm every Tue. EM Tea Coffee Cup Café, 80 Oakgrove Ave. at Hughes St. (884-1444).

**Northside Writers Group.** 7pm, first and third Thu of each month. Ascension Lutheran Church, 4640 Main Street, Amherst. (626-4204).

Send weekly literary event info (name, description, location, date, time, and admission) to: [editorial@artvoice.com](mailto:editorial@artvoice.com) or fax to: 881-6682. Due the Wednesday before publication.

## BOOMDAYS Poetry Contest

BOOMDAYS is a celebration of the advent of Spring, commencing each year with the lifting of the Lake Erie-Niagara River Ice Boom on Friday, April 7 from 4:30-10:30pm at the CPO Club (at the foot of Porter, next to the Buffalo Yacht Club). Contest: Write a poem about the Ice Boom. All forms of poetry are acceptable. First Prize-\$200; Second Prize-\$150; Third Prize-\$100. Winning poems will be published in *Artvoice* and winners must read their work at the BOOMDAYS kickoff event. All ages welcome to apply. Poems should be typed, should not exceed a single page in length. Each entrant may submit only one poem. Please include name, address and telephone number. Submissions must be post-marked by March 24, 2006 to be considered. Winners will be notified by phone on March 30. Send entries to: BOOMDAYS Poetry Contest, Just Buffalo Literary Center 617 Main St., Suite 202A, Buffalo, New York 14214. For further information on Boomdays and a history of the iceboom, go to [www.boomdays.com](http://www.boomdays.com). Sponsored by Just Buffalo Literary Center.

## POETRY

surrealist expulsion from the garden of poetics

ode to Breton's Free Union

My love whose hair is hay spun into gold  
 Whose thoughts are the straw that stirs the drink  
 Whose waist is a cloudy Sunday afternoon  
 passing thru the eye of a needle  
 Whose shoulders are a moonlit liaison  
 Whose skin is skim milk  
 Whose teeth are snow leopards caught in an avalanche  
 Whose tongue is heat lightning  
 Whose tongue is the arrow shot by Cupid's quivering hand  
 My love whose arms are pillars which crumble to dust  
 Whose eyebrows made Robespierre rethink  
 The Reign Of Terror  
 Whose eyelashes are reeds bending in the wind  
 Whose eyelashes are purple peacock feathers  
 My love whose neck is a vase of Forget Me Nots  
 Whose fingers untangle the nerve endings of A.M. radio  
 exiled icicles  
 reluctantly playing Chopin on my spine  
 Whose wrists fly thru the front windshield  
 Whose feet are the future written in shorthand  
 Whose feet are those of  
 the flower child barefoot and bewildered  
 Whose throat contains lost lullabies  
 My love whose legs are winding staircases  
 Whose back is forever against the wall  
 Whose breasts belong to the night  
 Secrets singing in the shadow  
 Shadows singing in the secret  
 Whose thighs are shark infested waters  
 My love with eyes of lost pictures  
 With eyes of ceramic dolls  
 With eyes of two way mirrors  
 Whose eyes  
 sink or swim depending on the season

Robert Pomerhn  
 Cheektowaga, NY

Robert Pomerhn reads tonight (Thurs, March 16) starting at 7pm with Brian McMahon at Starbuck's Coffee, 3755 Union Road in Cheektowaga.

untitled

I am sad that it never got started.  
 put all your tears back into the pockets of your brain, put back  
 the shadows and fevers, put away the stubborn impossible  
 flowers, the trembling  
 the not yet beaten.  
 night is an old laundress, pot-bellied and just a little too sad.

Robert Whiteside

## BOOKREVIEW



## Frank

by R.M. Berry

Chiasmus Press, 2005 \$12

The promotional blurb on the back of R.M. Berry's new book, *Frank*, describes it as the author's "unwriting" of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* with Shelley's protagonist Victor Frankenstein replaced by Frank Stein, "distant cousin of Gertrude." This Gertrude is, of course, the Grand Dame of experimental writing, Gertrude Stein, and before we even open the book we are launched into the post modern universe of R. M. Berry, one of America's leading contemporary experimental writers. Not only does Berry usurp Shelley's epistolary narrative to comic effect, but he mimics her high-literary tone with perfect pitch: "So strange an event has befallen me that I can't forbear relating it, although in my present disordered state my words may want sense." The fact that he projects these tones through the voices of two protagonists, both modern-day writers, lambastes the whole enterprise of creative writing, thus poking the ribs of those most likely to fully appreciate this book. In fact, it seems that Berry has the chops, the intelligence, and the welcome audacity to mimic and lambaste any target he turns his gaze upon. His willingness to push his readers' hot-buttons on everything from race to sexual orientation to literary fixation put me in mind of Terry Southern minus the twin crutches of sex and drugs. This is unorthodoxy you can sink your brain into.

-peter connors

R.M. Berry reads on Wednesday (March 22) at 7pm at the Library at Huber Hall at Medaille College (18 Agassiz Circle) as part of the Write Thing Reading Series.